

Appl. No. 10/707,275
Amdt. dated September 05, 2006
Reply to Office action of July 18, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

Figure 4 has been amended to correct the position of the high voltage electrode 36a and the low voltage electrode 36b, and the connections between the U-shaped lamps 36 and the inverters 38. The above amendment finds support, for instance in Figure 2 and in
5 paragraphs [0016]-[0018] and [0021]. No new matter has been added through this amendment to Figure 4. Acceptance of the amended figure is respectfully requested.

Attachment:	Replacement Sheet	1 page(s)
	Annotated Sheet Showing Changes	1 page(s)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claim 12-13 and 16 as being anticipated by Van Duijneveldt (U.S. Patent No. 5,971,567):

Response:

5 Claim 12 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Specifically, the limitation “the low voltage electrode of each U-shaped lamp is not connected to the high voltage electrode of another U-shaped lamp in series”. This amendment finds support, for instance in Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, and no new matter is introduced through this amendment.

10 The amended claim 12 now specifies that the low voltage electrode of each U-shaped lamp is not connected to the high voltage electrode of another U-shaped lamp in series. With regard to US 5,971,567, Duijneveldt teaches connecting the U-shaped lamps in series as shown in Fig. 4A, and Duijneveldt fails to teach or suggest connecting the U-shaped lamps in a non-serial way. The serial connection of Duijneveldt’s teaching
15 may cause repairing complexity if only one single lamp is broken. On the other hand, the non-serial connection of the back light source as recited in claim 12 does not suffer from similar problem.

20 Regarding US 2001/0050735, Yajima also fails to teach serially connecting the U-shaped lamps in his disclosure. The amended claim 12 now includes the limitation distinct from Duijneveldt or Yajima’s teachings, and the applicant asserts that claim 12 is not anticipated by Duijneveldt or Yajima. Therefore, claim 12 should be allowable, and reconsideration of claim 12 is politely requested.

25 Claims 13 and 16 are dependent on claim 12, and should be allowed if claim 12 is found allowable. Reconsideration of claims 13 and 16 is therefore requested.

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**2. Rejection of claims 14-15 and 20-22 as being unpatentable over Van Duijneveldt
(U.S. Patent No. 5,971,567) in view of Yajima et al. (Pub. No. U.S. 2001/0050735):**

Response:

Claims 14-15 and 20-22 are dependent on claim 12, and should be allowed if claim
5 12 is found allowable. Reconsideration of claims 14-15 and 20-22 is therefore requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this
case.

Sincerely yours,

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Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526
P.O. BOX 506, Merrifield, VA 22116, U.S.A.

15 Voice Mail: 302-729-1562

Facsimile: 806-498-6673

e-mail : winstonhsu@naipo.com

Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C.
20 is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)